Message Text

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P 061530Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6042 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3219

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IS, US

SUBJECT: US/ISRAELI RELATIONS AS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE

- 1. ALTHOUGH NOT MAJOR ISSUES IN THE CAMPAIGN, THE SUBJECTS OF US RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, EXPECTED US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, AND US VIEWS OF PERES HAVE FIGURED FROM TIME TO TIME IN ELECTION SPEECHES AND ADVERTISEMENTS. THE FOLLOWIN EXTRACTS FROM POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ARE EXAMPLES.
- 2. ON APRIL 22 THE GUSH EMUNIM PUBLISHED AN ADVERTISEMENT REFERRING TO ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY AND ASKED "WHERE IS THE INDEPENDENCE? AMERICA HAS DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT MAKE STATEMENTS ABOUT LEBANON. AMERICA DECIDES TO WHOM PLANES SHOULD BE SOLD. AMERICA DECIDES WHERE WE MAY ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS AND WHERE NOT. SO WHERE IS THE INDEPENDENCE?" THE ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY URGE READERS TO VOTE FOR THE NRP BUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GUSH EMUNIM AND THE NRP IS WELL ENOUGH KNOWN TO POTENTIAL VOTERS.

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3. AN ADVERTISEMENT PUBLISHED BY THE DMC ON A DAILY BASIS UNDER THE HEADING "TIME FOR A CHANGE" CLAIMS THAT A VOTE FOR DMC WILL BE A VOTE FOR A PROGRAM WHICH "STRENGTHENS THE COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE SO THAT IT WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND FOREIGN PRESSURES DURING NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT."

- 4. A LARGE, PROMINENT ALIGNMENT ADVERTISEMENT, ALSO PUBLISHED SEVERAL TIMES, ASKS UNDER A HEADING "WHAT DID BEN GURION, ESHKOL AND PRESIDENT CARTER SAY OF SHIMON PERES, OUR NEXT PRIME MINISTER?" THE ADVERTISEMENT GOES ON TO ANSWER BY SAYING IN PART "PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER DESCRIBED HIM AS A STRONG AND DETERMINED LEADER CAPABLE OF TAKING DECISIONS AND ARTHUR GOLDBERG FORETOLD THAT HE WOULD GIVE ISRAEL GREAT LEADERSHIP."
- 5. IN AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE POST ON MAY 6, EXTRACTS FROM A SPEECH TO ALIGNMENT CANDIDATES BY PERES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS REGARDING "COMMON GROUND WITH THE AMERICANS":
- 6. "I DON'T WANT TO PAINT A PICTURE OF THE WHOLE WORLD AGAINST US. I HAVE GOOD GROUNDS FOR THE BELIEF THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION ARE NOT AGAINST ISRAEL, AND ON A NUMBER OF FUNDAMENTAL POINTS THEY ACCEPT THE ISRAELI POSITIONS. I BELIEVE THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTS THE NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING, TRUST AND A COMMON STRATEGY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES AS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITIN FOR NEOGITATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES.
- 7. "SECONDLY, I BELIEVE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION, LIKE ITS PREDECESSORS, IS INTERESTED IN A STRONG ISRAEL, WHICH CAN FEEL THAT IT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO ADVANCE ALONG THE ROAD TO PEACE.

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- 8. "THIRDLY, THE AMERICANS AFFIRM THAT THE SETTLEMENT MUST BE THE RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE ARAB STATES, AND NOT THE OUTCOME OF EXTERNAL COERCION OF ISRAEL.
- 9. "FOURTHLY, THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST LEAD TO A SITUATION OF REAL PEACE. IN MY ESTIMATION, THERE IS ALSO A FIFTH POINT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN US: NAMELY, THAT A PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD ENDANGER THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL, THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE, AND ALSO -- AS HAS RECENTLY TRANSPIRED -- THE FUTURE OF JORDAN."

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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